

Bin Laden admits masterminding 9/11, assigning 19 terrorists

Peso nears 53 to \$1, closes at 4-month low; BSP selling stops slide



Family of four, nanny killed in fire in Quezon City

'Butanding' found dead with 14 bullet wounds in Masbate

Killings just part of rise and fall of crime, says PNP



By Edgar A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora
SHORT OF SAYING that the killings of activists and journalists cannot be stopped, a senior police officer yesterday said that crime had its cycles as

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, May 25, 2006 ** 4 sections / Vol. 31 / No. 166 P18 online www.inq.com

Jimenez to donate P50M to CAP, PPI plan holders

By Juliet Labog-Javillana
FIVE YEARS FROM RELEASE AFTER HIS release from a US prison, businessman Mark Jimenez has with characteristic flamboyance announced that he would help the thousands of victims of the failed pro-secession campaign.

'I signed as Jose Velarde but bank account not mine'

By Nelson E. Flores

TESTIFYING AT HIS plunder trial, deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday admitted signing bank documents as "Jose Velarde," but denied that the controversial bank account was his.

The account was said to contain P5.2 billion. Estrada, 59, said that the bank account was owned by his friend, businessman Jaime Delosantos, and that he had reached an "internal arrangement" with Delosantos and the bank before he signed the documents.

Delosantos had testified at the impeachment trial that Estrada, and not Delosantos, owned the account. He said former bank chair George Gu, a friend of Estrada's, had asked him to regular documents linking the account to Estrada with new ones showing Delosantos as the owner.



COMFORT AND AD- After his plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan, ex-President Joseph Estrada meets with Marian Estelita, wife of the chair of the Union of the Planners for Democracy and Justice, and family members of the other Estrada leaders who were abducted last Monday. Estrada has vowed all-out support to the families of his missing supporters.

AFP admits: We seized Erap men

Ermita at first denied 'Gestapo-like' arrest



By Dono Pazibugan, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nacian

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Eduardo Ermita was quite emphatic. The administration had nothing to do with the disappearance of five supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada, whom their relatives had reported missing.

Two hours after Ermita made the statement yesterday, the military confirmed the government had the five in custody. Not only that, the police had also filed a petition to arrest them for allegedly plotting to assassinate four Cabinet members—Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales, Presidential Management Staff chief Michael Delesma, Public Works Secretary Herminio Echevarra and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

Prosecutors said the plot involved a conspiracy between rightist elements and communist rebels. A state witness presented to media, supposedly a New People's Army member, claimed the plot also called for killing Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes and Transportation Secretary Leonido Morones.

Finally, it's official: FPJ is National Artist

By Christine G. Arcandata

AFTER THE PALACE ANNOUNCED that took back on the same day last month the National Artist award for the poet, President Manongbi-Aroza yesterday finally proclaimed the awardee. The late movie "King" and former presidential challenger Fernando Poe Jr. is an evergreen along with accolades.

They are Riosorola L. Lantieri (Literature), Ramon S. Ochoa (Music), Benigno R. Cabana (Painting), Edilberto P. Santos Jr. (Architecture), Ramon Valera (Fashion/Jewelry) and Abelardo Nolasco (Sculpture).

The conferment of the awards had generated much controversy after the Palace's initial list.

A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS: Harry Geron-Proencas, originally from the Philippines, is invited after being sworn in as a US citizen by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, toward an immigrant vote from Arizona. More than 1,100 immigrants representing 100 countries participated in the ceremony.

US Senate to lift immigration cap on nurses; RP hardest hit

AS AMERICA RUNS SHORT OF NURSES, US senators are looking ahead. They have inserted a little-noticed provision in their immigration bill that would throw open the gate and, some fear, drain nurses from the world's developing countries, particularly the Philippines.

The legislation is expected to pass this week. The Senate provision, which increases the limit on the number of nurses who can immigrate, has been largely overlooked in the emotional debate over illegal immigration.

Rep. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), who sponsored the proposal, said it was needed to help the United States cope with a growing nursing shortage. Brownback said he doubted the measure would greatly increase the small number of African nurses coming to the United States.

but acknowledged that it could have an impact on the Philippines and India, which have been sending thousands of nurses a year to America. The results of nurses from poor to rich countries has strained health systems in the developing world, which are already facing acute shortages of their own. Many African countries have begun to demand compensation for the training and loss of nurses and other health professionals who move away.

Journalists split over issue of arming selves

By Abhinav Papp

PHILIPPINE JOURNALISTS ARE DIVIDED over the issue of arming themselves after Manila police charged against them for allegedly plotting to assassinate four Cabinet members.

Just by Ego, president of the Association of Responsible Media (ARM), yesterday said the Palace prosecutors were "most welcome."

AS FAR AS THE GROUP OF PARTY for lawmakers now known as the "Batasang 5" is concerned, its spokeswoman is the best defense against an attack. "What is more important (than armed bodyguards) is somebody who can call for help and describe the situation," said one of the group's members, Gabriela Rep. Lisa Maza.



NUOVA VIZZAYA IS 167 YEARS OLD Dadi town's best depicts its well-deserved title as the province's biggest producer of freshwater fish during Wednesday's founding day celebration in the capital town of Bapangan.

Batasan 5's best defense vs attack

According to another member, Rep. Maza Rep. Sator Ocampo, keeping "high visibility" is his way of protecting himself. Said Ocampo, a former journalist and political candidate, in Filipino: "I carry no debt against the people. If anything happens to me, only they (the government) will be behind it." If any of the Batasang 5—which also includes Rep. Maza Representative Teodoro Guillot and Joel V. Vicks, and Atang Rep. Rafael Mariano—has a bodyguard, it is most likely a trained friend or a family member, Maza said.

And even if the aid his colleagues are allowed security from the police or the military, it will be no real, she said. "My bodyguard is my gun."

Gringo: I will never surrender

A FORMER PHILIPPINE SENATOR AND DEPUTY MINISTER for a failed literary group against President Arroyo's alleged abuse of power, said that he would never surrender and called on the public to join in the struggle.

Gregorio Rosales, who in the 1980s led several coup attempts, accused Arroyo of abusing her power and of violating her bond to the public. He urged the public to join in the struggle to end the May 2001 coup.



ROSALAS

He said in a statement to news agencies.

"I am not running away from them. I have decided to stand with the people in their fight for good government and fundamental values," Rosales said, referring to Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency to quell the alleged coup attempt.

"The clock has not run in the direction I am sure the target of a national audience," he said in a statement to news agencies.

"I am not running away from them. I have decided to stand with the people in their fight for good government and fundamental values," Rosales said, referring to Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency to quell the alleged coup attempt.

Rosales, a former army colonel, once described himself as the country's "number one" in the field of coup attempts. He was arrested in 1986, but was released and subsequently was elected to the Senate. He has been arrested but in the 2002 elections.

German wanted for Internet fraud arrested

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND INSPECTION (BIR) has arrested a German national who is wanted for large-scale Internet fraud in the country and who was arrested in Manila last week.

The Bureau's Director of Immigration said he was arrested on the basis of information received from the German Federal Police which has been making him a target.

Rosales said he was arrested by a team of immigration and police officers. He was arrested on the basis of information received from the German Federal Police which has been making him a target.

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MILITANTS AND ACTIVISTS KILLED January 1, 2001 to May 23, 2007

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WEATHER FORECAST

Ready rain gear, studs told; 3 typhoons to hit RP in June

Dr. Steven E. Finkel

SHORT LINES ARE HIGH AGAIN, according to another official who examined students enrolling in spring for the school opening on June 5 that 17 telephone are expected to be disconnected this year.

Three of the raptors are predicted to be the raptors in line though they are not expected to be as strong as the domestic as the last one. Caring which for the country early this month and left 47 people dead and thousands more homeless and caused an estimated \$100 million worth of damage to crops and other.

Baldemar Cruz, director of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, explained that the Philippines experiences an average of 26 typhoons a year. So far, there have already hit the country since the start of the year.

Speaking at the Ciudad Pymatitlan town assembly, Cruz said he did not expect the

Three typhoons that are to hit in June is all nearly affect the opening of classes. But he will students and parents to be prepared for the worst event.

Crow warned the public against looting or walking in the line after the store, which he calls "Spill overness"—as there are pollutants associated with looting.

"April showers normally contain pollutants at this time. So taking a bath in the rain is not advisable because it may cause irritation to the skin," he said.

One such a hellfire is like the one that occurred in Argentina last Tuesday could happen again anywhere in the country. Its said last summer was caused by the circumstances, as heavy rain with thunder and lightning, which follow periods of extremely hot or humid weather.

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HYUNDAI DARES:
THE CORDILLERA CHALLENGE
THE OPEN STRETCH

DAY TWO'S TRIUMPH:
 Engine Responsiveness

The second day of the Hyundai Dares: The Cordillera Challenge further proved the durability and plush safety and comfort features of all five vehicles participating in this groundbreaking drive. The Getz, Matrix, Tucson, Accent and Santa Fe were observed to have more than enough power and acceleration to get through 200kms of the rough and tumble driving conditions from Baguio, Sagada and Banawe.

DAY THREE'S CHALLENGE:
 The fast drive to Pagudpud

On the third day of its 4-day performance drive, Hyundai dares to travel the distance between Banawe and Pagudpud. The Hyundai Dares team today past the open roads with the intense torque power and amazing speed of its CRDi line up. Traversing through Tuguepao, all of the vehicles easily conquered the stiffening and long highway to the heavenly shores of Pagudpud. No road is too tough for the power of Hyundai's automotive prowess.

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**NOTICE OF 22-HOUR
WATER SERVICE INTERRUPTION
IN PARTS OF PASSAY AND MANILA**

Manila Water Services Inc. has scheduled a 22-hour water service interruption in parts of Passay City and Manila from 11:30 p.m., Friday, May 18, 2006 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, May 19, 2006.

The water service interruption is due to the replacement of a 600mm-cumulative gate valve along F.B. Harrison corner Chongking, Passay City.

The project is meant to improve the water supply to the area.

The following areas will have no water during the service interruption:

- In Passay: Along Tuff Area, from Estrada to Lateral and lateral streets, along Lateral from Tuff Area, to Rizal Blvd., and several streets, along Rizal Blvd. from EDSA to Vinz Court and lateral streets, along F.B. Harrison from Vinz Court to EDSA and lateral streets, along Lateral to Tuff Area, Pothole, EDSA and F.B. Harrison, CCP Complex, SORS and Siente Hills, World Trade Center and World Hills.
- In Manila: Along Tuff Area from Rizal Blvd. to Rizal Blvd. and lateral streets, along Vinz Court from Tuff Area, to Rizal Blvd. and lateral streets, Hawthorn Plaza, Central Hotel of the Philippines, Delta Suite University, St. Sebastian's School College, and Century Park Hotel.

In view of the water service interruption, additional customers are advised to store water good for 72 hours. They may check with Manila's Public Works, the nearest branch office, or their respective offices for the schedule of water rationing in their respective areas.

Marinating customer, go to nearest pump-out station.

 **Manila Water Services Inc.**
1626
Manila Water Services, Inc.

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Bohol grade school kids get AIDS education

By Christian N. Esguerra

A GROWING NUMBER OF ELEMENTARY pupils in Bohol are getting acquainted with AIDS, a deadly but preventable disease, as officials in the island province.

By way of the annual issue of "Mag Bantayag Papan sa Papan" (Watch Paper Book), a 22-page monthbook about becoming a better student, responsible citizen and a person who respects the environment.

The AIDS Society of the Philippines has been integrating the book into the local school system to help educate children on the disease, especially those at risk with people at. Based on it is a comprehensive way.

But Dr. Carlos Galan, the society's president, says implementing institutionalized education apparently consists of a "gray area" between RA 6050 and the 4059 Law.

"There is a limit to the date to teach children the public," he said, reporting after a past conference examining the International AIDS Conference in the Philippine Islands on May 20.

In Bohol, he said, his group's steering program was slowly teaching "good acceptance" in around 10 public and private elementary schools.

"There isn't a lot of control of what children are learning, especially in AIDS through monitoring and sharing the same with their parents and, in the process, educating them," he said.

As of last year, there were 11,138 Filipinos with AIDS according to Austria, Capas, program manager of the National HIV Sentinel Surveillance System.

Of this number, 1,171 were "men having sex with men," 1,136 male clients of sex workers, 249 injecting drug users, and 286 female sex workers, she said.

The problem with AIDS education can be seen in the relative susceptibility of children among high-risk groups such as female sex workers and adolescents.

Female female sex workers and men having sex with men, only 17 percent and 11 percent, respectively, were using the condom, Capas said.

Galan said these high-risk groups remained affected by "myths and legends" surrounding the use of condoms, like the notion of condoms that condoms do not prevent diseases or break easily.

"They will don't think that using drugs can protect them, they will be protected," he said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Bill filed seeking ban on mercury in all RP schools

By Philip C. Salas

ASKING FOR THE MERCURY BAN, THE SENATE 11 members in the Senate last Friday, Sen. Alan Villar filed a bill proposing a total ban on mercury in public and private schools.

The bill, drafted as a response to the 10th International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment, was filed by Sen. Alan Villar, who is also the author of the bill, to the Senate on May 19, 2009, before the Senate Committee on Education.

Villar said the proposed "Safe Schools Mercury Regulation Act of 2009" which would prohibit the use, purchase and storage of mercury thermometers and mercury thermometers in all private and public schools and institutions in the country, including government.

"Mercury thermometer incidents have happened in the past if the regulation is enacted will be the use of this instrument in all schools. This regulation is an important step in protecting children from the dangers of mercury pollution and contamination in schools," Villar said in his statement.

The proposed bill would also ban the use of mercury thermometers "any instrument which contains mercury including, but not limited to, thermometers, barometers, sphygmomanometers and thermometers."

Galan said that environmental reports consider mercury to be an extremely toxic substance that can harm human health and wildlife "even at very low levels."

Even high school students from 10, Aguirre was hospitalized after mercury was accidentally spilled in the school's water supply on May 16.

Last week, a case of adolescent and reports from the 10th International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment. The bill expects will make the regulation of mercury thermometers and reports. The bill was filed after the Senate by Sen. Alan Villar.

Bohol, a group of 10th International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment. Villar said, a former vice mayor in community service, and Villar provided the author and board members of the bill. Villar said the bill was filed through Philippine Senate and Congress. Villar said the bill was filed through Philippine Senate and Congress. Villar said the bill was filed through Philippine Senate and Congress.



GENTLE WHALE SHARK RIDDLED WITH RAILLETS

Legazpi City - A four-meter whale shark weighing 100 kilos is found dead in "hunting" was found dead in the waters of Legazpi City, Bohol, on May 19, 2009.

The whale shark, said 14-meter whale shark found in a 10-meter net, according to the report. The whale shark was found dead in the waters of Legazpi City, Bohol, on May 19, 2009. The whale shark was found dead in the waters of Legazpi City, Bohol, on May 19, 2009.

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And the homes are designed around the play area, making it easy for neighbors to get together in the big pool, putting green, tennis courts or garden court. Or, at the dining area and the play area, there are 10,000 sq. ft. of play area, with a variety of play equipment and play areas.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Bizarre! I'm not sick, contrary to rumors

/A18

■ 3 Chinese nightclubs raided; 100 GRDs arrested

/A18

■ Always hampered by lack of school resources, says Intel science fair winner

/A18



RAMPING America with another joint

Five dead in QC fire

By Ed Ng

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL AND FOUR one-year-old brother perished along with their parents and nanny in a three-hour fire that swept their home in Calabarzon City yesterday.

The fire that hit 50 Miami Townhouse on Van Jose St., Barangay Las Batangas broke out at a little past 2 a.m.

Police the latest available report on

the bodies of the girl identified as Anne and her brother Ric, their parents Johnson, 34, and Paula Joy 32, and nanny Veloy Tirones, 50, were listed inside the bedroom, the officials said.

The fire started at the second floor of the three-story apartment, quickly spreading to the rest of the house, according to Bureau of Fire Protection-Quezon City chief John Alon de Vera.

The Ops and the nanny were sleeping when the blaze broke. They were likely trapped inside the bedroom and were unable to escape because of the smoke, an investigation said.

Rescueing the family during the fire was put out at 5:15 a.m., de Vera said. The cause of the fire had not yet been established.

Fire officials could not immediately give an estimate of the damage. Mark Melendez de Quiros

Cops looking for 2 kidnap victims

By Melisa de Quiros

POLICEMEN ARE STILL LOOKING for two women abducted on Monday by three persons who introduced themselves as policemen near a mall in Calabarzon City, a third victim, a man, was aged to five hours old yesterday.

Edith Mendoza, 22; Cristina, 28; and Patricia Nolas, 25, all residents of Calabarzon City were walking on the North EDSA Roadway near SM City at around 5:30 p.m. Monday when three armed men in civilian clothes approached them.

Investigator SP4 Felipe Sanchez

said the two grabbed Mendoza's hands and accused her of being a "teacher."

Handcuffed

Upon hearing the policemen's shouts, the suspects allegedly hand-cuffed Mendoza and quickly dragged Cristina and Patricia with them.

The females managed to escape when Mendoza called to alert them. He contacted a national police system when one of the suspects yanked him during the struggle. The abduction also took his wallet which had

Philippine pesos and P200 the two women, the suspects quickly handed a note with plate number TTY 138, which sped off toward the direction of Calabarzon City.

Placed Right

Cristina was scheduled to fly to Hawaii as a domestic helper that day but because of the incident, she was unable to make the flight, Sanchez said.

He added that the kidnappers might have intended to extort money from her. "The women could be released," the policeman said.



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100 feared dead in Thai flash floods

PM Thaksin blames devastation on illegal logging in the region

CHANGAI, THAILAND—Relief work Wednesday pulled some bodies from cascading floodwaters in northern Thailand, where officials fear about 100 people were killed in floods and mudslides.

"One hundred dead is a preliminary estimate, but we are still awaiting reports of missing people," Solicitor Prasert, acting prosecutor of the justice ministry, said Wednesday.

Mudslides blocked roads in Lam Lue district, where many of the victims are believed to have been swept away by the floodwaters or buried in the mud in the mountainous region, he said.

Up to two feet of water still covered the houses in parts of the province, he added.

In Lam Lue, bodies had been pulled from the mud and water that covered roads and houses, while 77 people were reported missing and feared dead, the justice ministry spokesman said.

"We think that the cascades of dead and missing are likely to rise," a justice official told AFP. "A disaster official told AFP that the nearby provinces of Nan, Phayao, Lamphun and Sukhothai were also hit by floods, but no casualties were reported there because roads remained open."

Some 1,200 people have been evacuated, while about 75,000 have suffered damage to their homes and other facilities, the justice agency said.

In at least 10 schools were hit by floods, while 20 schools, temples or government buildings were damaged, it added.

Some 1,000 people who had been stranded at the Lam Lue district were rescued here Tuesday and



Thaksin wades through the debris in search for bodies of flood-flood victims in Uthairat province, northern Thailand, May 24.

together to Bangkok, the State Gazette of Thailand said.

Services in this region were disrupted because of the damage to roads. Many of the roads were reported to be damaged by a second day of heavy rain.

The floods have inundated the fields in the north and the water is still high. We have no

idea what it means for us to repair the roads," the spokesman said.

Prime Minister Thaksin has ordered his cabinet to order the provinces to order the roads to be repaired.

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Pope to trace predecessor's footsteps in Poland

BERGAMO, ITALY—Pope John Paul II will visit his birthplace in Poland on Thursday, the first day of his trip to Poland, the Vatican said.

More than just a personal journey to his beloved homeland, the Polish Pope's visit is also a historical journey to his birthplace.

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WorldBriefs

Congo arrests 30 in coup plot

KINSHASA—The Democratic Republic of Congo said on Wednesday it had arrested 30 people, including 10 soldiers, in a suspected coup plot aimed at overthrowing President Mobutu Sese Seko K Ngbendu Ngbendu. The arrests were made in the capital, Kinshasa, and in the provinces of Kasai and Katanga. The arrested individuals are being held in custody, and the government is investigating the alleged plot.

Bird flu spreads in Romania

BUCURESTI—Romanian health authorities reported on Wednesday that bird flu has spread in Romania. The disease was first reported in the country in the spring of 1993, and has since spread to other parts of the country. The authorities are monitoring the situation closely and have taken measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

60 Taliban rebels killed in Afghan battle

KABUL—Afghan Taliban fighters and Afghan government soldiers were killed in a battle in the northern province of Paktia, a news agency said on Wednesday. The battle was part of a series of clashes between the Taliban and government forces in the region. The Taliban claimed to have killed 60 government soldiers, while the government claimed to have killed 60 Taliban fighters.

Axis battles in Saddam trial

BAHRAIN—A top Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq al-Hassani, was indicted on Wednesday for his role in the invasion of Kuwait. The indictment was issued by the United Nations Security Council. The trial is part of a series of proceedings against Iraqi officials involved in the invasion of Kuwait. The trial is expected to continue for several months.

Mutant mice might challenge heredity laws

SPRING, MICHIGAN—With spunky tails, these three dozen mice are anything but ordinary.

Experiments by French researchers suggest that RNA, not DNA, is the primary source of genetic information.

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Bombs kill 25 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Bombs killed at least 25 people in Baghdad on Tuesday, police said, in an attack that underscored the country's challenge facing Iraq's coalition government.

A bomb blast in a commercial district outside the city killed 25 people in the district of the capital, killing at least 11 people in nearby neighborhoods.

Police said the bomber was caught on the spot and was killed in the blast, which also wounded eight people.

It was one of a number of attacks across the country, including one in Baghdad, which underscored the country's challenge facing Iraq's coalition government.

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The World

Editor: Lorraine B. Sison

Bin Laden admits masterminding 9/11

Says Moussaoui had no role in the attacks

PARIS—OSAMA BIN Laden said he masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks and that committed Frenchman Zacarias Moussaoui had no part in them, according to an audio recording released Thursday.

"I am responsible for assigning the roles of the 19 brothers to conduct their campaign and I did not order Moussaoui to take part in this mission," said the voice in the recording, which claimed to be the mastermind's confession.

"The confession, a US official said, the intelligence service had no reason to doubt the authenticity of the recording.

Moussaoui, a 37-year-old Frenchman of Moroccan origin, is the only man sentenced over the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. He was sentenced this month in a court in Alexandria, Virginia, to life imprisonment.

"His confession that he is not a jihadist nor a participant in these events is a false confession," said the recording on the al-Jazeera network, which is widely viewed in the Middle East.

"The confession is a result of the pressure put upon him for the last two and a half years," the recording continued.



Osama bin Muhammad bin Laden to the American people

19-05-2009-2009-05-20 Osama bin Laden frequently used by bin Laden to the American people

Osama bin Muhammad bin Laden frequently used by bin Laden to the American people

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him, "he may feel a need to say again in part of his confession, his previous campaign," the official said.

A US judge this month formally sentenced Moussaoui to life imprisonment without parole for his role in the Sept. 11 attacks, after a jury rejected the death penalty.

The judge said in May 2008 that Moussaoui had helped to plan the Sept. 11 attacks, but that he was not a mastermind.

The US judge also said that Moussaoui had helped to plan the Sept. 11 attacks, but that he was not a mastermind.

According to the recording, Bin Laden also said that prisoners held at the US base in Guantanamo Bay "have no role in the Sept. 11 attacks" and that "many of them have no connection with al-Qaeda in the first place, and even more among them are of decent origin of the Sept. 11 attacks' mastermind of calling the Sept. 11 attacks."

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AUSTIN JEFFERSON 'AUSTIN JEFFERSON' was seen against the backdrop of the World Trade Center after the opening of the building in New York City, May 21, 2001. It was the last building to be seen on Sept. 11, 2001, and the first to be rebuilt on the site.

First skyscraper near Ground Zero opens its doors for business

NEW YORK—A 342-story office building near Ground Zero has opened its doors for business, marking a significant milestone in the rebuilding of Lower Manhattan.



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The building, known as 2 World Trade Center, is the first skyscraper to be built near the site of the Sept. 11 attacks.

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World powers meet on Iran nuke offer

LONDON—WORLD POWERS met in London on Wednesday to discuss a package of incentives and threats drafted by European countries aimed at deterring a crisis over Iran's disputed nuclear program.

The package, known as the "P5+1" plan, was drafted by the United States, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Russia, along with the European Union.

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and the countries had to work together to encourage Tehran to halt its nuclear program.

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POSTNOT BY BILL MANNING

A LUPIN BY JULIANA

PHOTON BY TOM ARNSTRONG

POGADILIBOY BY BEN JAMES

BRITBLES BY PETER ARNOLD

PUTTS BY PATRICK MCCONNELL

ATOMIC AND NISBOY BY RYAN GRIFFIN

DIVINE COMEDY BY TONY PALMISTO

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CHANE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

CANCER (June 21 to July 20): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

LEO (July 21 to Aug. 22): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success. You are a strong leader of others for constant success.

DAILY CROSSWORD

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LOVENOTS BY ELIZABETH CHONG-D

ENTERTAINMENT

A Kapamilya and a Kapuso in one movie?



Lito Lapid

EVEN THOUGH Lito Lapid-Gra is a Kapamilya artist, he is very vocal about his desire to have a project with Kapusos Angel Locsin and Janylyn Mercado.

"I would like to make them," he said. "It would be an interesting experience to work with them."

Locsin? Or is he married to her?

"Let me just say that I think they're wonderful. I'd like to work with them," he said. "I'm not sure if I'm going to be married to her yet."

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Dolly Wood

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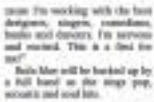
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XTRA

Peso nears 53 to \$1, closes at 4-month low

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in the market's life

About two months looking for a job
(Philippines) and January 2008

12 May 2008: The Philippine peso (P) closed at 52.95 to the US dollar (USD) on Thursday, May 14, 2008, its lowest level in four months, as investors sold the peso in anticipation of a possible Fed rate hike.



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority
Data as of May 14, 2008

Bangko Sentral selling stems further slide

By Carlo S. Narisma

THE PESO YESTERDAY SLID TO 52.95:51 IN INTRA-DAY TRADING on regional jitter caused by a renewed Asian bird flu scare, which added to pressure caused by a two-week sell-down on emerging markets' bonds and currencies.

Local currency traders said the Bangko Sentral selling of P-Notes and dollars at 52.95 to 53.00 in early May 2008, the peso's depreciation. The local market then recovered slightly but still closed at a new low, around 52.95 against the dollar.

It was the peso's weakest closing since its 12.87% to a dollar last January. Notable market in the Philippine trading system.

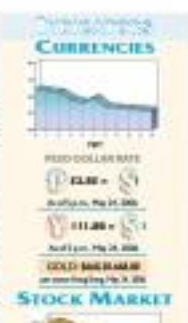
With the local currency trading the 53 level, it has lost its impact on the peso market in the last year. At end 2007, the peso stood at

53.00 to 53.05.

Other Asian currencies led by the Indonesian rupiah (Rp) traded on fears of the first possible case of human transmission of bird flu in Indonesia.

In the same time, traders said offshore investors continued to unwind portfolio exposure to emerging markets, leading to currency sell-offs.

Local currency traders said the BSP sold only about \$10 million in the spot foreign market, but as much as the market saw this in



PRONE TO ABUSE, FRAUD

Abolition of tax credits pushed

By Michelle V. Rana

ACTIVISTS PLAN TO ABOLISH THE TAX credit system as a major anti-fraud measure. The abolition of the tax credit system (TCS) has been pushed for by some private firms for the last several years.

The latest criticism of the system, however, is a leading on economic bills that the government should already do away with the tax credit system. Instead, firms said, the government should focus on other aspects of the tax system, such as the tax credit system.

Under the tax credit system, taxpayers can have credits for tax refunds. In fact, the system is given TCS, the abolition of which was the objective of the anti-fraud measure. The abolition of TCS is a major anti-fraud measure, which is given TCS, the abolition of which was the objective of the anti-fraud measure.

The government intended the use of TCS because it did not really have the funds to accommodate claims for tax refunds and the tax system. But Finance Undersecretary for Finance

WHAT'S INSIDE

Breakdown: Hinder the table

HK Sins eyes 5% stake in PSE

IMF urges BP to carry out more reforms

SM firms up grip on EPCIB

THE SM GROUP FIRMED UP ITS GRIP ON EPCIB by buying the 25% stake in the 25-member board of the company's stock exchange.

During the stockholder's meeting and board election which lasted past 9 p.m. Tuesday, the Boardroom Entity's 25-member Board of Directors (BOD) was elected to the 25-member board of the company's stock exchange.

During the election, the SM group increased its stake in the company from 10% to 25%. The SM group also increased its stake in the company from 10% to 25%.

Shares close lower
The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) closed at 1,114.00, down 1.00 point from the previous day's close of 1,115.00. The PSE's 25-member board of directors (BOD) was elected to the 25-member board of the company's stock exchange.

5

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